

11
SOWERBY BRIDGE
Urban District Council



Annual REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
(Wm. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.)

for the year

1969

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

1969-70

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor W.F. TURNER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor A.G. GREENWOOD

Members of the Council:

Coun. G.A. Benbow, J.P.

" C.F. Beverley

" G.P. Dyson

" G. Earnshaw

" Mrs. E.M. Godfrey

" L.E. Godfrey

" C. Grenshaw

" Mrs. E. Hellowell

" F. Heyworth

" J.M. Holder

" C. Holt

Coun. Mrs. E. Jagger

" G. Kitson

" T.H. Longbottom

" F.W.T. Ogden

" G. Parker

" S. Parker

" A. Pettengell

" E. Pitts

" J. Sutcliffe

" Mrs. W.A. Sutcliffe

" Mrs. D. Wood

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Health Committee:

Coun. T.H. Longbottom (Chairman)

" Mrs. D. Wood (Vice-Chairman)

" Mrs. E.M. Godfrey

" Mrs. E. Hellowell

" C. Holt

" S. Parker

" A. Pettengell

" Mrs. W.A. Sutcliffe

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Sowerby Bridge U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

S.F. SCHOFIELD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W.E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

P. NELLIS, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

P. HOPKINSON, M.P.H.I.A. (resigned 27.6.69)

G. HARTLEY, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A. (commenced 1.9.69)

J.J. HOYLE (Student)

Technical Assistant:

H. HILEY

Clerical Staff:

Miss B. GARSIDE

Miss D. CRAVEN

West Riding County Council

Preventive Medical Services: Health Division 19

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge District:-

Divisional Medical Officer:

As above (M.O.H.)

Senior Departmental Medical Officer:

As above (Deputy M.O.H.)

Departmental Medical Officer, and Medical Officer to Sowerby Bridge
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic:

* W.C. McKERR, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

School Dental Officer:

Miss J. ROTHERA, L.D.S.

Divisional Nursing Officer:

* C.J. BARKER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Queen's Nurse

Health Visitors:

M. SOUTHWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

* M. HOLDSWORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.D.N., H.V. Cert.

E. RAMSAY, S.R.N., H.V. Cert., Queen's Nurse (resigned 30.9.69)

S.M. GRAYSON, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.

M.A. HOLMES, S.R.N., H.V. Cert. (commenced 29.9.69)

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

* B.G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Welfare Officer:

* R. ALLEN, R.N.M.S.

Midwives:

* A.B. HOBSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse

* I. MUSGROVE, S.C.M.

Home Nurses:

A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse

A. KLEINDIENST, S.R.N., R.F.N., Queen's Nurse

* K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse

* H. MASH, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse

* M. LINGARD, S.R.N. (Relief Home Nurse for whole Divisional Area)

* Also have duties in other parts of this Division.

Clerical Staff:-

Senior Divisional Clerk:

H. MARSHALL, A.C.I.S., A.R.S.H.

Clerks:

Mrs. M. REDFERN
Miss M.J. CROWTHER
Miss S.M. HORSFALL
Mrs. A. DUFFIELD (resigned)
Miss K. GILL
K.G. HOLLAND
Mrs. L.F. CLARKE
Mrs. M. CRIDGE
Miss L. NOBLE
Mrs. J. SANDERSON

Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee

Consultant Staff

Chest Physician:

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:

P.J. BATCHELOR, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.(E), D.L.O.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

S.B. DAVIES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.

Orthopaedic Surgeon:

J.G. GILL, V.R.D., M.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

January, 1971.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1969, the year previous to my appointment as Medical Officer of Health. Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer is also the Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services. The present divisional unit was formed from the former Brighouse and Todmorden Division, your Medical Officer having similar functions and responsibilities in the other seven districts in the combined area.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population at the middle of the year was 16,610, 90 less than the corresponding figure for the previous year. Total live births numbered 288, giving a birth rate of 17.3 per thousand. This is a little lower than the previous year's high figure, but when adjusted to enable comparisons to be made, is still slightly ahead of the administrative County and the rest of the country.

The death rate from all causes was marginally higher than in 1968. Within the classification of causes of death, the death rate for heart and circulatory disease, particularly cerebrovascular disease, again showed an increase. Deaths due to malignant disease accounted for the other major group. The infant mortality rate per thousand live births appeared to be much higher than in 1968 (41.7 as against 26.7). However, when small numbers are involved, minor variations in figures may give rise to an exaggerated impression of alteration in statistical rates. In this case deaths of infants under 1 year were 3 more in 1969 than in 1968, but the number of live births was 45 less.

Notification of infectious diseases appeared to indicate a satisfactory position throughout the year. Of singular note was the decrease in the number of measles notifications, and this encouraging picture will depend on an active and continuing pursuit of the measles vaccination policy, as part of routine immunisation, to protect the susceptible child population. The routine immunisation programme carried out in infancy was revised in 1968, under the West Riding Computer Scheme. Primary immunisation courses are now completed at the age of 14 months instead of 6 months as previously. In the initial period of transition there was an apparent fall in the number of courses completed during the year. However, it is confidently expected that the benefit of the new procedure will be demonstrated in subsequent years by significant raising of the percentage of children completing the full primary course.

The rapid growth in the demand for care and play facilities for pre-school children in recent years makes it increasingly important to be assured that the standards of care are of a satisfactory order. New regulations covering the inspection and registration of child minders and day nurseries were introduced at the end of the previous year, and are designed to improve levels of supervision and care, as well as providing a stimulating environment for the children.

At the other end of the age span, services for the elderly continued to make a valuable contribution to the welfare of our senior citizens. The Warden Schemes, of which there were 8 (5 supervising old people in grouped dwellings on Council estates, and 3 visiting more scattered groups) continued to play an important part in the friendly supervision of the elderly in their homes. It would be appropriate at this point to pay tribute to the invaluable help provided by the voluntary workers, in promoting care and social contact for the elderly. The meals-on-wheels, luncheon clubs and other activities of the Old People's Welfare Committee, continued to be much appreciated.

The chiropody scheme arranged for 471 patients to receive 1,966 treatments in the clinics, and a further 179 patients who were unable to attend, received 861 treatments at home.

The Public Health Department continued to advise, inspect and sample, in order to ensure that the regulations were observed in respect of food hygiene, and the sale of pure milk. *Brucella* organisms were cultured in 14 samples, and as a result 189 individual samples were taken to enable the affected cows to be identified and removed from the herd. The incidence of *Brucellosis* in human beings has not been clearly established. It is, however, a condition which may cause a considerable degree of ill health, and Government proposals to introduce an eradication scheme in the near future will, it is hoped, represent an appreciable step forward. Further progress has been made in the avoidance of contamination of milk supplies, by the introduction of the T.T.C. test, to ensure that traces of antibodies are not present.

The high proportion of unsatisfactory bacteriological samples from private water supplies in the area emphasises the potential risk to public health involved. Unfortunately, 2 of the schemes considered by the Council in 1968 for extension to the public supply were not given approval. When the results of samples are unacceptable, not only in respect of bacteriological sampling but chemical analysis and lead content in some cases, it is clear that all possible means should be taken to eliminate the health hazards caused by these unsatisfactory supplies.

During the year progress continued in the clearance of unfit properties. A total of 104 houses were included in representations made during the year, and 169 houses were demolished.

The Council's accustomed policy of improvement of suitable older property where possible will, it is hoped, be reinforced by new provisions in the 1969 Housing Act. It is hoped that owners of suitable properties will be encouraged to effect improvements under their own initiative.

Finally, may I express on behalf of the Department, gratitude for the consideration, patience and co-operation of the Members of the Council, and to thank Mr. Foster, Chief Public Health Inspector, and other Officials, for their kindness and help at all times.

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL H. BROCK

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

Vital Statistics

STATISTICS

Area	5,763
Population, Registrar-General's estimate of	
Resident Population, mid-1969	16,610
Population (Census, 1961)	17,350
Number of dwellinghouses	6,577
Rateable Value (1.4.69)	£ 397,901
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate (year 1969-70)	£ 1,532

Summary of Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F	
Live Births	288	165	123	Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 17.3
Still Births	3	-	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births: 10
Total Live & Still Births	291	165	126	
Deaths of Infants				Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:
Under 1 year (total)	12	8	4	total 42
Under 1 year (legitimate)	11	8	3	legitimate 43
Under 1 year (illegitimate)	1	-	1	illegitimate (per 1,000 illegitimate live births) 33
Under 4 weeks	8	6	2	Neo-natal mortality rate 28
Under 1 week	6	4	2	Early neo-natal mortality rate 21
Illegitimate Live Births	30	12	18	Percentage of total live births: 10
Maternal Deaths (associated with pregnancy or child-birth)	-	-	-	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births: Nil
All Deaths	245	131	114	Death Rate per 1,000 population: 14.8

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.

										1969	
										M	F
B 4	Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
B 5	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 19 (2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B 19 (3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
B 19 (4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
B 19 (6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	-
B 19 (7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	4
B 19 (8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3
B 19 (9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
B 19 (11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6
B 21	Diabetes Mellitus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B 46 (1)	Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 46 (4)	Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B 26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5
B 27	Hypertensive Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
B 28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	34
B 29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	10
B 30	Cerebrovascular Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	16
B 46 (5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
B 32	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	11
B 33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	-
B 46 (7)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B 38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
B 46 (8)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 46 (9)	Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 46 (10)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B 42	Congenital Anomalies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B 43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
B 44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
BE 47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
BE 48	All Other Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
BE 49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
BE 50	All Other External Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
										<hr/> 131	<hr/> 114 <hr/>

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1969

Based on Registrar General's Figures

	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Rippon- den U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todmor- den M.B.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W.Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:- (per 1,000 estimated population)	18.6	14.0	22.3	13.7	17.2	17.2	17.1	16.3
DEATH RATES:- (All per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All Causes	14.6	12.3	13.3	12.0	14.1	12.9	12.6	11.9
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	0.06	-	0.11	-	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.02
Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	0.01	0.02
Cancer	2.41	1.40	2.84	2.27	2.72	2.22	2.10	2.35
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2.11	2.01	1.82	1.70	2.92	1.83	1.70	+
Heart and circulatory diseases *	6.74	5.43	7.39	5.67	5.57	4.67	4.39	+
Respiratory Diseases:- ** (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.73	1.81	1.48	1.98	1.75	1.81	1.69	+
INFANT MORTALITY:- (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	41.7	16.9	43.5	-	4.5	19.3	18.9	18.1
MATERNAL MORTALITY:- (Deaths of mothers associated with pregnancy on childbirth, per 1,000 live and still births)	-	-	-	-	-	0.19	0.20	0.19

* Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.

** Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

+ + Figures not available.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Hospitals

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Northowram Hall Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mentally subnormal patients).

Maternity beds are available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

(B) Ambulance Service

The County Ambulance Service covers this district through the Group Control at Birkenshaw and the Divisional Depot at Brighouse, and may be contacted by telephone - Bradford 682211, or Halifax 62191. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

(C) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Services, at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford, and by the Regional Blood Transfusion Service at Leeds. There are also facilities for the examination of clinical specimens, including cervical smears, at the Royal Halifax Infirmary.

(D) Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Royal Halifax Infirmary for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board, supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division.

A supply of re-agents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's scheme of immunisation. Poliomyelitis and measles vaccines are also issued, in accordance with the approved arrangements.

SECTION III

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Clinics and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Tuesdays	}	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
	Thursdays		
The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot	Fridays		

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Mondays	}
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Cervical Cytology:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	By appointment
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Chiropody (for Pensioners, etc.):

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	}	By appointment
The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot		

Dental Clinic:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	By appointment
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School Clinics:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	}	As required
(a) Ophthalmic		
(b) Ear, Nose and Throat		

Smallpox Vaccination:

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Tetanus Immunisation:

Whooping Cough Immunisation:

Polio-myelitis Vaccination:

Measles Vaccination:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge

The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot

At any Clinic Session, by arrangement with Medical Officer.

(B) Care of Mothers and Young Children

Sowerby Bridge Ante-Natal Clinic:

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	..	..	..	..	93
Total number of attendances	..	..	..	..	469

Child Welfare Clinics:

Total number of children who attended during the year	..	..	..	..	719
Total number of attendances	..	..	..	..	4,020

Home Visiting of Infants:

Total number of live births to Sowerby Bridge mothers	..	..	..	..	288
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	..	..	..	..	248
Total number of first visits to children aged 1-2 years	..	..	..	..	263
Total number of first visits to children aged 2-5 years	..	..	..	..	614

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.:

National dried milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc., are distributed at the Centres, and a variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods are also sold at the Child Welfare Centres for the convenience of mothers.

Care of Premature Infants:

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them. Portable incubators are available at both the Halifax and Brighouse Ambulance Stations, should it be necessary to transfer a premature infant to hospital.

Provision of Maternity Outfits:

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

(C) Professional Nursing in the Home

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. There were 5 full-time Home Nurses and 2 full-time Midwives employed in 1969. 3 of the Home Nurses and both Midwives, however, did not work wholly in the Sowerby Bridge area, also having duties in other parts of the Divisional area.

Midwifery Service:

Number of home confinements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Number of hospital confinements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	217

The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of both trillene and gas and air analgesia, and are provided with the necessary equipment. Anaesthesia is available to all mothers desiring it, subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.

(D) Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

(E) Home Helps

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1969, 152 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 151 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 15,391.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provides domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age."

There were 150 cases of chronic illness, and 2 maternity cases.

(F) Care and After Care

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or subnormality, venereal disease, and other illness.

Tuberculosis

A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is employed in the Division. She attends the chest clinic at the Halifax Royal Infirmary, and has helped to forge a valuable link with the hospital services. She is also responsible for visiting patients at home and helps to trace and supervise their contacts. In 1969, visits were paid to 87 households in the Division.

Mental Health Service in Division 19 in 1969

(a) Mental Illness

Number of patients in the Division referred to Mental Welfare													
Officers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	279
Number admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act, 1959,													
Section 5 (voluntary admission)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
Number admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act, 1959,													
Section 25, for observation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Number admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act, 1959,													
Section 26, for treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Number admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act, 1959,													
Section 29 (emergency admission)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15

(a) Mental Illness (continued)

Number admitted to Hospital under the Mental Health Act, 1959, Section 60 (from Court)	1
Number of visits made to mentally ill patients	2,123

(b) Care of Subnormal Patients

Number of patients attending day training centres	36
Number awaiting places in training centres	-
Number of patients in hospitals	72
Number awaiting admission to hospital	-
Number admitted to hospital for short stay care in 1969	7
Number receiving care from the local health authority	65
Number of visits paid to subnormal cases	455

(G) School Health Service

Number of schools in district	17
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1969	2,953
Number of children examined at school during 1969	528
this figure being made up as follows:-	
Routine examination	263
Re-examination	265
Number of children referred for treatment	27

(H) Immunisation and Vaccination

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and vaccination against smallpox, poliomyelitis and measles, may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

SECTION IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received in year 1969

Disease	Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Measles	4
Diphtheria	-
Dysentery	-

Disease	Total cases notified									
Meningococcal Infection	-
Acute Pneumonia	-
Smallpox	-
Acute Encephalitis	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	-
Paratyphoid Fevers	-
Erysipelas	-
Food Poisoning	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Ophthalmic Neonatorum	-
Infective Jaundice	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-
										<hr/> 11 <hr/>

Tuberculosis

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in Sowerby Bridge in 1969

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Totals
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Number on Register on 1st January 1969	35	11	46	2	1	3	49
Number first notified during 1969	3	1	4	-	-	-	4
Number of cases restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register other than by notification	1	2	3	-	-	-	3
Number removed from Register during 1969:-							
(a) Died	1	1	2	-	-	-	2
(b) Removed from district	1	1	2	-	-	-	2
(c) Recovered	4	2	6	-	-	-	6
Number remaining on Register, 31.12.69	33	10	43	2	1	3	46

REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
For the year ending 31st December 1969

To the Chairman and Members of the Sowerby Bridge Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on (a) the sanitary conditions of the area, (b) the housing conditions including overcrowding, (c) the inspection and supervision of food, for the year ending 31st December 1969, and for the cleansing services for the financial year ending 31st March 1970.

I have been writing these reports for some considerable time, during which there have been many changes. There has been a certain amount of deterioration, with shops and mills closing down, a declining population, a centre which perhaps leaves much to be desired; but this, unfortunately, appears to have been the pattern in so many small towns due, perhaps, to the expansion of the supermarket and the merging of so many shops and factories - perhaps this is a sign of progress - perhaps a time for re-thinking, re-organising - certainly a time for action.

The district, in company with so many other small towns, has its problems, but at least this Authority has gone a very long way in solving one of its most difficult and controversial problems, that of housing.

This area has had for many years far more than its fair share of substandard houses, and here I refer to the Type 1 back-to-back and the back-to-earth terrace house, badly arranged and with communal sanitary and refuse accommodation. Almost all these houses have been scheduled for clearance and demolished, and one cannot fail to see the improvement with the re-development on these town centre sites which has taken place, namely at West End, Chapel Street and Church Bank.

There are other sites in the town centre which have been cleared, but due to a multiplicity of reasons do not lend themselves for re-development, but could be utilised with considerable effect for amenity purposes. This has been admirably demonstrated by the Parks Department at Bolton Brow, Gratrix Lane and Wakefield Road, where the gardens are a delight to behold, and where so many of our townspeople sit and enjoy the surroundings. Unfortunately, other areas which have been cleared are not so presentable; they are used as dumps or parking areas. It is perhaps unfortunate that these areas are not similarly treated by the Parks Department, as this would not only tidy up an eyesore but make the areas most attractive.

In 1955 it was estimated that there were approximately 1,400 unfit houses to be dealt with in a 20-year programme. Up to the end of 1969, 1,272 had been scheduled, and after a further detailed survey it is estimated that approximately 400 houses could be scheduled in the next 4 years,

with a further 350 to complete the programme by the late 70s. In the year under review, 101 houses were scheduled for clearance, 26 of which were in Sowerby Bridge, the remainder being in the outer districts of Sowerby, Norland, Luddenden Foot and Luddenden. Unfortunately, in the same period only 8 houses were built, 5 of these being by the Local Authority.

The housing reports and surveys carried out during the year have not all been devoted to clearance. The report on clearance and improvement presented in the early part of the year included some 725 houses for improvement, of which the vast majority were capable of being included in improvement areas. Almost all these 725 were terrace houses, a substantial number being Type 2 back-to-back, or the side scullery house. This type of house is very suitable for improvement, as one can so readily see in the North, Central and East Wards, where the improvement of many of these houses has already taken place.

With the new provisions in the 1969 Housing Act for improvement areas, and both Standard and Improvement Grants, it is hoped that many of the owners will take advantage of these, and will seek voluntary improvement on a large scale. It is also hoped that the Authority will take advantage of the provisions for improvement areas, not only to see that the houses in the areas are improved, but also the environment of the area. This is absolutely necessary if clearance is to be halted and improvement on a substantial scale encouraged.

A considerable amount of the work in the Department is of a routine nature and goes unnoticed, such as inspections under the Food and Drugs Act, Food Hygiene Regulations, Offices and Shops Act and the like; or alternatively it is part of a joint effort, as for instance the demolition of an area prior to re-development and landscaping. The end product is that which people see and refer to; the spadework of clearance prior to re-development is forgotten.

This, however, is not the case in Smoke Control. The entire programme is carried out by the Department, and there is no doubt that this is something which many of the ratepayers see and appreciate, and it has had a very beneficial effect upon the improvement of the atmosphere of our town.

The programme was planned to commence in 1964, and in 1965 the first area became operative. The programme is to continue, and it is anticipated that the entire district will be smokeless by 1975. The district is sub-divided into 12 areas, and at the end of the year now under review Areas 1 to 7 are fully operative, Area 8 is confirmed, and Area 9 has been surveyed and is ready for submission to the Ministry. With this continued rate of progress, there is no doubt that the programme will be completed by 1975.

The position of smokeless solid fuel became a little precarious in the early part of the year, but at no time was the position such that restrictions were to be lifted and the burning of raw coal permitted in any of the controlled areas. Although it was not always possible to get the fuel of one's choice, some type of smokeless fuel was available throughout the year. One reason for the shortage was apparently due to the cutting down of gas coke with the event of natural gas. This reason is rather surprising, as most people were fully aware of the Gas Board's policy, and the Smokeless Solid Fuels Federation, in confirming that sufficient smokeless fuel was available for Sowerby Bridge, took into account that gas coke would be in short supply.

Perhaps one very disturbing feature of the smokeless solid fuel position is the fact that whilst the merchants have made every effort to comply with the requirements of the various orders, and refused the sale of coal in Smoke Control Areas, the little corner shop is supplied quite

openly and sells coal in 28 lb. bags to householders in these controlled areas, and unfortunately little can be done about this. The shops supplying this fuel are most unsuitable, being the small food shops. It is high time that legislation was introduced prohibiting the sale of raw coal from any source in Smoke Control Areas. Local Authorities and property owners have spent far too much in the conversion of appliances for the cleaning up and improvement of the atmosphere, to see it again polluted by a few thoughtless and selfish individuals who continue to burn raw coal.

The position relative to water supplies continues to improve, and although 2 extensions were refused grant aid, work was commenced on 2 other extensions, namely at Saw Hill, Triangle, and Shepherd House, Luddenden Foot, and at the end of the year these were nearing completion. The extension at Towngate, Midgley, and Morley Hall, Luddenden Foot, will be pursued in 1970, as it is imperative that these extensions shall take place as soon as possible. When these are completed, only Higham and Dob Lane, Sowerby, extension remains. All areas within the urban district, with the exception of the isolated farms and cottages, will then have a public supply available.

The extensions which have already taken place have enabled house improvements to be undertaken, and it is pleasing once again to see a further reduction in the number of pails in the rural parts of the district. It is, however, high time that we saw an end to this type of accommodation, and should the conversions continue on the same scale in the coming year as in the past, then this service will no longer be necessary.

The cleansing services have continued quite satisfactorily, both regarding collection and disposal, but there have been problems with labour shortage. The position, however, regarding disposal is giving rise to concern. Refuse has been deposited at Milner Royd for over 30 years, and for the past 15 years has been the central disposal point. The method of disposal has been on the controlled principle, with very little nuisance arising, and with this method of disposal the cost has been extremely small.

A very considerable area of this tip is now completed and ready for conversion to a playing area. The remaining tipping space is being reduced at a very considerable rate, due not only to the bulky nature of the domestic refuse, but also by the contractors and industrialists. The present site will be completed by 1972-73. It is therefore imperative that either a new site be acquired, or an extension to Milner Royd be made available, in order to tide the Authority over to the time, which should not be too far distant, when joint schemes with neighbouring Authorities can be prepared at a central disposal depot, for the complete incineration of all refuse. It must be noted, however, that when this time arrives the cost of disposal will be very substantially increased.

Other duties undertaken by the Department are covered in the report, and are dealt with under their separate headings.

The Department has been fortunate to retain, for the most part, its staff over the year. There was, however, one change, Mr. G. Hartley taking over as Additional Public Health Inspector from Mr. P. Hopkinson. The continuity of staff is very important, as the successful working of any Public Health Department is dependent not only on good teamwork, but also on the wide local knowledge of the general conditions.

May I, in conclusion, thank the Chairman, Councillor T.H. Longbottom, and the Members of the Public Health Committee, for their support and assistance; also the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. N.E. Gordon, for his help and support in the many complex problems which have arisen from time to time.

My thanks are due to Mr. P. Nellis, Mr. P. Hopkinson and Mr. G. Hartley, the Additional Public Health Inspectors; Mr. H. Hiley, Technical Officer, who has dealt with the problems under the Clean Air Act; also to the Clerical Staff, Miss B. Garside and Miss D. Craven, who have been responsible for the setting out of the reports and the general clerical work of the Department. May I also record my thanks to the Foreman, Mr. F. Croad, and the Employees of the Cleansing Department, who have carried out the objectionable work of collection and disposal of refuse in such a pleasant manner.

My thanks are also due to all the Officials of the Council, and the Calderdale Water Board, who have so kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this report.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

W.E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Supply

The Calderdale Water Board are responsible for the distribution of the public supply throughout the majority of the urban district; parts of the Ryburn Valley are supplied by the Wakefield and District Water Board, by arrangement with the Calderdale Water Board.

The public water supplies have not given rise to any anxiety regarding suitability and sufficiency, and the bacteriological samples which have been taken have been highly satisfactory.

There have, however, been certain complaints and these have been in relation to short lengths of main with blank ends, which do require flushing from time to time. With the improvement of housing by provision of bathrooms, hot water supplies and internal toilets, shortages have come to light. This has been due to groups of houses not being supplied directly from the main, but by a small and inadequate service pipe. Whilst this may have been sufficient for a cold water tap over the sink, it is most inadequate to supply the additional amount required for improvements. Each house should be directly supplied from the main. The cost of such an extension is the direct responsibility of each owner, and here difficulty is being experienced in requiring separate connections to each house. It is expected that many more of these cases will come to light when the North Ward is surveyed for housing improvements during 1970.

The approximate number of houses connected to the public supplies at the end of the year is as follows:-

Calderdale Water Board - Halifax Reservoirs	..	..	..	..	6,002
Wakefield and District - Ripponden Reservoirs	..	..	..	..	192

This total of 6,194 houses represents approximately 92.3% of the total number in the area.

During the year new mains have been laid for housing development at the Quarry Hill housing site, Sowerby Bridge. This is a small estate of 24 houses, and at the end of the year 215 yds. of 4" AC main have been laid. There are still 155 yds. to lay.

In addition, new mains have been commenced for rural water supplies schemes. The extension covering Shepherd House Farm, Luddenden Foot, of 420 yds. of 4" AC main, has been completed; and at Saw Hill and Ivy Houses, Triangle, 478 yds. of 4" AC main have been laid to the end of the year, but there are approximately 600 yds. still to lay. It is anticipated that this and the remainder of the Quarry Hill main will be completed in the coming year.

Private Supplies

In 1968 the Council considered 4 water supplies, the extension of which was urgently necessary, and as all these were in the rural areas application was made for grant under the appropriate legislation. Unfortunately, the 2 most important, namely Towngate at Midgley, and Blackwood Hall, Luddenden Foot, were refused; but the Saw Hill and Shepherd House schemes were approved.

Accordingly, these 2 supplies were undertaken during the year, and whilst the Saw Hill supply was incomplete, the extension to the year end made the town's water available to many more houses in this rural community.

There is no doubt that the 2 schemes rejected are typically rural areas, and the extent of the main is urgently required to cover these houses, which are all capable of improvement; but this improvement will be denied them if an adequate water supply is not made available.

The following table sets out the number of houses dependent upon private water supplies, and shows how the numbers have decreased over the years. There are still a considerable number of private supplies in the area, but these for the most part are serving farmhouses and very small blocks of property.

Year	No. of Houses on a Private Supply	Percentage of total
1959	1,549	23 %
1960	1,387	21 %
1961	1,246	19.5 %
1962	1,230	19 %
1963	1,164	17 %
1964	1,023	14.9 %
1965	869	12.8 %
1966	758	11.2 %
1967	691	9.2 %
1968	596	8.8 %
1969	529	7.7 %

During the year, 88 samples of water have been obtained, of which 53 were unsatisfactory. A considerable number of these supplies will be covered in the extensions which are planned in the future. Details of the samples are set out in the following table:-

District	Bacteriological Examination		
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Total
Luddenden Foot	6	8	14
Midgley and Luddenden	6	13	19
Triangle and Mill Bank	10	12	22
Sowerby	8	19	27
Norland	5	1	6
Totals ..	35	53	88

In addition to these samples, 2 were obtained for chemical analysis, both of which were unsatisfactory; and 10 for plumbo solvency, 4 of the latter were found to be unsatisfactory.

Although the lead content of these samples was above the official safety limit, which is most disturbing, upon enquiry no evidence of any ill-effects was observed amongst the users, some of whom had been taking this water supply for some considerable time.

Drainage and Sewerage

The sewers of the district serve approximately 6,215 houses, but there are still approximately 369 that rely on cesspools, septic tank drainage and the like. The majority of these have a satisfactory means of disposal, but unfortunately some still rely on unsatisfactory drainage to fields.

During the year the sewer was extended to serve the property at Hollins, Broad Lane, Luddenden Foot, and Millfield End, Midgley. This enabled the property in both these areas to be improved.

The unsewered areas in the district are likely to remain so, but where improvements are taking place, both suitable and sufficient septic tank drainage is being provided, and if this method is properly maintained it is quite satisfactory and accepted by the Rivers Board.

Routine maintenance has continued during the year, with the cleansing, flushing and repair of drains and sewers as necessary.

Drainage problems still continue to command a considerable amount of the Inspectors' time, and the nuisance arising from defective drains is very often accentuated by the steep contours of this area.

During the year there have been 223 visits in connection with defective drainage, and an additional 237 re-visits for testing, inspection in course of construction, etc. In addition to this work, 49 choked drains have been attended to under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, no charge being made for this work.

Sewage Disposal

The sewage disposal works at Milner Royd appear to be nearing the end of their useful life, and the whole problem of sewage disposal is being considered in conjunction with neighbouring Authorities, but the final reports are still awaited. The works at High Royd, Luddenden Foot, which have very recently been completely renewed, continue to give satisfaction in every way.

Sanitary Accommodation

The number of pails in use in the district has continued to decrease, but this has not been as marked as in previous years. This is by reason of the fact that there have been difficulties with both water supplies and drainage work. The abolition of the pail closet has been the subject of numerous reports, and many suggestions have come to hand regarding the abolition of this most insanitary accommodation. Many visits have been made to both owners and occupiers, and it is hoped in the coming year to see a very substantial reduction, so much so that the need for a collection service may no longer be required.

The domestic sanitary accommodation within the district is set out as follows:-

Number of Pedestal W.C.s	5,811
Number of Pail Closets	69
Number of Trough or Waste Water Closets	17
Number of Chemical Closets	14
	<hr/>
	5,911
	<hr/>

The distribution of pails in the out-districts is indicated in the following table:-

District	Pails
Luddenden Foot	23
Midgley and Luddenden	13
Triangle	9
Sowerby	16
Norland	8
	<hr/>
	69
	<hr/>

From these figures it will be seen that although there is still a certain amount of joint sanitary accommodation within the district, this is decreasing quite rapidly, mainly with the event of slum clearance.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

Enquiries and visits in connection with the spread of infectious disease continued during the year. It is a tribute to the medical and public health profession that the number of cases has dropped so dramatically over the years. Principally, notification for investigation is in the case of dysentery, usually amongst school children, and this is quite quickly cleared up. Details of the visits are set out as follows:-

Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits	9
Visits re Disinfection	Nil

Factories Act, 1961

Details of the factories on the register, together with the defects found, are set out in the following tables:-

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	15	5	-
Where Section 7 is enforced	98	40	5
Totals ..	113	45	5

Number with inadequate sanitary conveniences	-
Number in need of cleaning	5
Number requiring general modernisation	1
Other contraventions relative to ventilation, lighting, etc.	4
Number satisfactory	25
Number dealt with verbally, and improved	10
Informal action	5

There were 2 complaints referred to the Department by H.M. Factories Inspector. These were investigated and remedied.

The following table sets out the factories on the register operating in the district at the end of the year:-

Bakehouses	3
Boot and Shoe Repairers	4
Brass Finishing	1
Brass Foundry	1
Building Site	1
Carpet Manufacturers	7
Cloth Carbonising	3
Coffee Grinding	1
Combworks	1
Diecasting	1
Dressmakers	2
Dry Cleaning	2
Dyers	2
Dyeworks	2
Electrical Generating and Transforming	2
Engineering (light)	5
French Polishing	1
Gas Holder	1
Hospital Equipment	1
Joiners and Cabinet Makers	9
Knitting (machine and garments)	2

Leather Goods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Light Steel Machinery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Machine Tools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Machinery Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mortar Grinding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Motor Vehicle Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Paper Baling and Sorting	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pattern Making	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Plastic Mouldings and Compounds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Plumbing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Portable Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pre-cast Concrete	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Printers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Provender	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Radio and Television Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sausage Making	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Scrap Metal Yards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sheet Metal Working	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Slaughterhouse	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Steel Tubular Furniture	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sugar Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Textiles - Cotton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Textiles - Woollen and Worsted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Textile Machinery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Upholstery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Warehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wholesale Clothing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Wire Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wool Sorting (including waste, etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Wool Blending	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Outworkers

There are 2 outworkers on the register, both of whom are engaged in textile manufacture or repair. Lists are submitted to the Council by other Authorities twice per year, under Section 110 of the Factories Act, and similar information is forwarded to neighbouring Authorities. The number of outworkers includes those engaged by factories outside the Local Authority.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Routine inspections under the above Act have again been carried out throughout the year, including both general inspections to ensure that premises coming within the scope of the Act comply fully with its requirements, and re-visits to check progress in remedying contraventions previously notified.

As can be seen from the table, the number of new registrations this year was only 5, this being 1 more than in 1968, whilst the total number of premises registered under the Act dropped from last year's figure of 108 to 96. The number of persons employed in such premises showed

an even greater decrease, from 430 to 369. These decreases were no doubt due in part to the effects of the Government's policy relating to employees in non-manufacturing premises and also to the closure of the remaining Industrial Society's branches.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	-	27	2
Retail Shops	5	59	8
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	3	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	-	7	-
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
Totals ..	5	96	10

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered

Premises under the Act 26

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4 Cleanliness Nil		16 Floors, passage and stairs	6
5 Overcrowding Nil		17 Fencing exposed parts	
6 Temperature 4		machinery Nil	
7 Ventilation 1		18 Protection of young	
8 Lighting Nil		persons from dangerous	
9 Sanitary Conveniences 4		machinery Nil	
10 Washing Facilities Nil		19 Training of young persons	
11 Supply of Drinking Water Nil		working at dangerous	
12 Clothing Accommodation Nil		machinery Nil	
13 Sitting Facilities Nil		23 Prohibition of heavy work	Nil
14 Seats (Sedentary Workers) Nil		24 First Aid General Provisions	3
15 Eating Facilities Nil		Other Matters	10
		Total	28

Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	130
Retail Shops	145
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	32
Restaurants and Canteens	62
Fuel Storage Depots	-
Total! ..	369
Total Males	145
Total Females	224

Exemptions: There have been no applications for any exemptions during the year.

Prosecutions: There have been no prosecutions instituted this year, the work having been carried out informally.

Accidents: 3 accidents were reported during the year, and all of these were investigated. All were of a minor nature, and due more to the carelessness of the injured persons concerned, rather than the employer concerned contravening the Act. I feel that not all accidents are notified by employers, as very few are brought to our notice, but the requirements of this Act have no doubt lessened the chances of such accidents occurring.

Public Swimming Bath

The swimming bath is used quite extensively by children and schools, not only in this district, but also by those of surrounding areas. The capacity of the bath is approximately 64,000 gallons, and the turnover of bath water with the existing equipment takes place every 4 hours. The filtering and chlorinating equipment appears to give every satisfaction.

During the year, 4 samples of water have been taken, 2 for chemical and 2 for bacteriological examination, and the report from the Analyst showed that these bath waters were highly satisfactory.

Nuisances (Part 3, Public Health Act, 1936, except Smoke Nuisances)

The number of inspections for nuisances only, excluding housing inspections, was 135, and in addition 149 re-visits were made.

At the end of 1968 there were 7 informal notices outstanding, and 1 statutory notice. During 1969, 64 informal notices were served and of these, together with the 7 outstanding at the end of

1968, 62 were abated, leaving 9 informal notices outstanding at the end of the year.

The outstanding statutory notice, which had been served in respect of a nuisance arising from the keeping of an excessive number of dogs, was at the beginning of the year being pursued through the Courts. Although a nuisance order was made by the Court and a number of successful prosecutions undergone, the nuisance still existed after this and further proceedings were instituted. The nuisance was finally abated during the year, as the person concerned moved away from this district, but the number of visits and time spent on dealing with this nuisance over the past 2½ years has been quite considerable and entirely due to the obstinacy of the person concerned.

Apart from such cases as this, where legal action has to be resorted to and which are, fortunately, few in number, almost all of the work relating to nuisances is carried out informally. An interview with the persons concerned is usually sufficient to secure the abatement of the notice, and therefore the above figures do not accurately reflect the time spent and the amount of work done in this respect.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades as such carried out in the district, apart from the fact that Fish Friers were included many years ago under this category. At the present time there are 18 Fish Friers, 30 visits being made to these establishments.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

														Visits
Camping Sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Conversions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Drainage, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	223
Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	238
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Hairdressers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Houses let in Lodgings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Infestation (except rodents)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,655
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200
Petrol Pump Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Public Cleansing - Administration	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	159
Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	137
Public Cleansing - Refuse Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91
Public Cleansing - Salvage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Sanitary Accommodation - Defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	177
Stables, Piggeries and Poultry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

	Visits
Sunday Trading	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds	8
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	2
Water Courses - Survey	35
Water Supplies	198
West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951 - Drains cleansed	49

Clean Air

Consistent progress was maintained during the year, with conversions and further survey work, and Area No. 7 (East Ward) became operative on the 1st October 1969.

Hardly any opposition was observed to Clean Air conversions and many applicants, particularly those converting to gas appliances, expressed their complete satisfaction at the changeover.

As in previous years, several instances were reported of contraventions of the Clean Air Act but in all instances, particularly industrial premises, immediate attention was given to our reports of infringements.

No legal proceedings, or the serving of Section 12 notices, were necessary; in fact almost everyone appears to be co-operating with the Department.

The postal survey system now used by the Department seems to be very successful, except that some follow-up visits are necessary in a few cases to clear up points contained in the partly completed survey forms.

Smoke Control Area No. 8 (Beechwood) was declared by the Council on the 16th June 1969, and confirmed by the Ministry on the 21st November 1969, to become operative on the 1st July 1973. This delay is due to the extensive improvement alterations in the Council's Beechwood estate, which are phased to be completed during 1971-1972-1973. Perhaps in some ways, and due to the solid smokeless fuel impending shortage, this extended operative date may be helpful.

The comparative cost of operating gas appliances appears to compare very favourably with other fuels, and very few complaints about condensation are received now.

Some complaints about solid smokeless fuel appliances have been received from tenants of the Kershaw House estate, and these have in the main been dealt with by the Surveyor's Department, under their usual routine servicing.

There is little doubt that the effects of clean air are now being appreciated, and this has been borne out in so many ways, not only by the housewife and persons returning to this area, but also by horticulturists and members of the Scientific Society. This trend is most encouraging.

Daily records of the atmospheric pollution are taken from the recording stations at Wharf Street and Beech Road. The graphs showing the monthly position at these stations have on this occasion been omitted, but a graph showing the comparison over the past 5 years is most interesting.

There is no doubt of the improvement in the reduction of smoke pollution, but unfortunately the amount of SO₂ in the atmosphere, although greatly reduced, is not as marked as one would have expected, with the number of conversions which have taken place in and around the Town Centre. Next year's figures may be more interesting, as approximately 70% of the conversions have been to gas fires, etc., and during 1970 natural gas is to be introduced into the area.

Details of the work carried out under the Clean Air Act are set out as follows:-

	Visits
Private residences (Area No. 8) notified of Ministry approval, and application for grant forms enclosed	320
Visits re applications (Area No. 7)	80
Final inspection for payment (Area No. 7)	200
Inspection of Commercial Premises with living accommodation (Area No. 7) ..	49
Re-visits re installations	36
General inspections, including industrial chimneys	90
Smoke Observations - domestic premises	73
Smoke Recording Stations	726
Interviews	1,040
Investigations re alleged condensation in domestic premises	9
Complaints re unauthorised burning of industrial waste	11
Postal Surveys	1,051

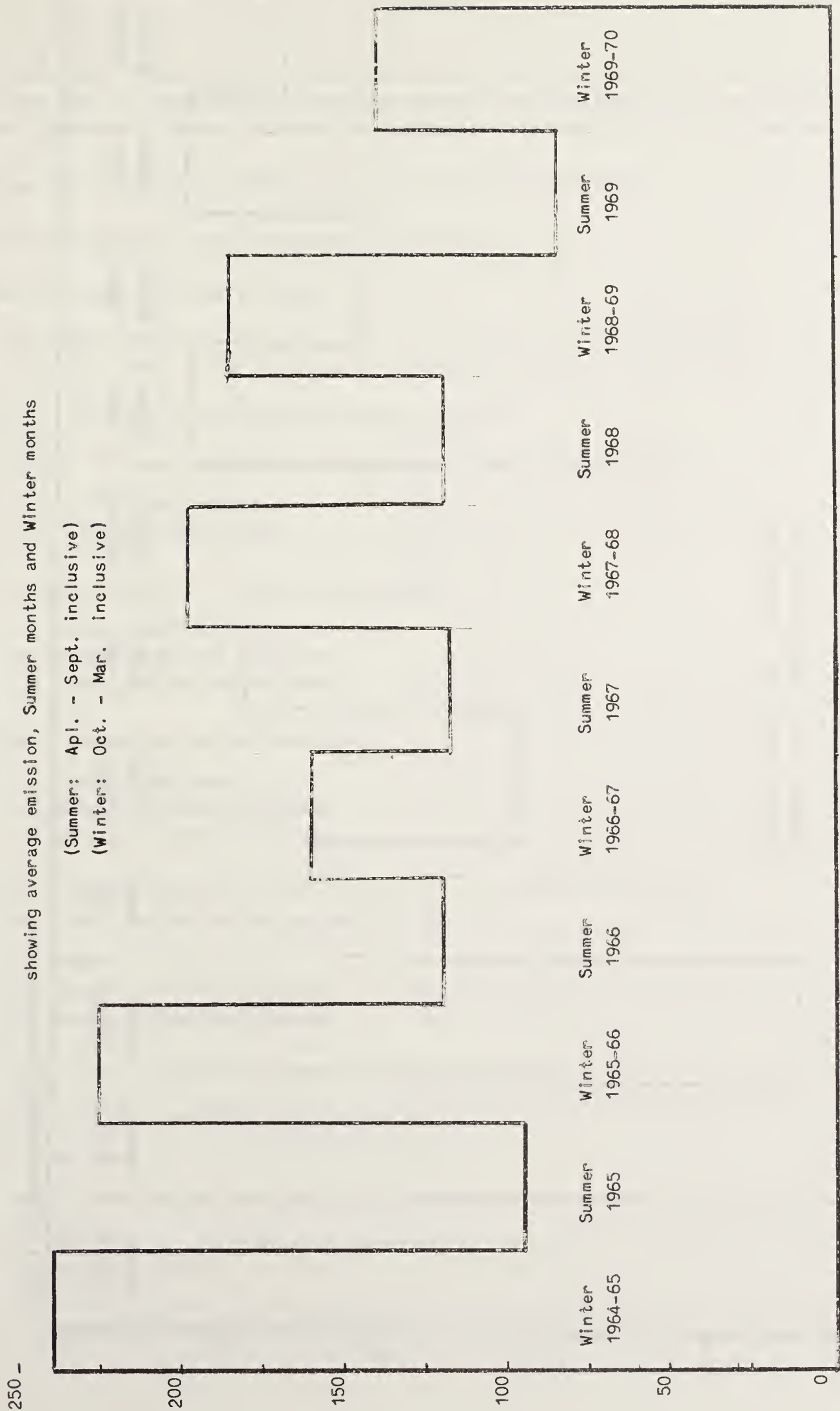
	Beech Road						Wharf Street					
	Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide			Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide		
	MA	HDF	LDF	MA	HDF	LDF	MA	HDF	LDF	MA	HDF	LDF
January	108	237	17	224	493	44	108	205	28	67	149	9
February	84	200	20	194	423	61	85	203	18	80	196	23
March	110	418	23	214	574	91	100	404	33	77	184	6
April	51	138	11	129	234	32	54	113	9	43	68	8
May	46	78	17	137	284	21	42	69	12	48	120	Alk.
June	34	55	12	107	200	36	32	54	8	64	169	17
July	22	66	6	50	123	14	25	67	15	21	75	-
August	30	60	8	47	90	20	32	52	15	9	32	-
September	42	83	24	41	81	-	43	82	22	Unable to be calculated		
October	66	167	3	35	114	-	65	137	21			
November	69	206	15	181	759	18	81	180	21	Insufficient readings		
December	111	227	15	175	368	31	117	224	21			

Explanation of Table:-

- MA - Monthly average, which is the mean of the daily figures for the month under review.
- HDF - Highest daily figure.
- LDF - Lowest daily figure.

Atmospheric Sulphur Dioxide measured and recorded at Beech Road, Sowerby Bridge

1965-1970



Scale in Microgrammes per cubic metre.

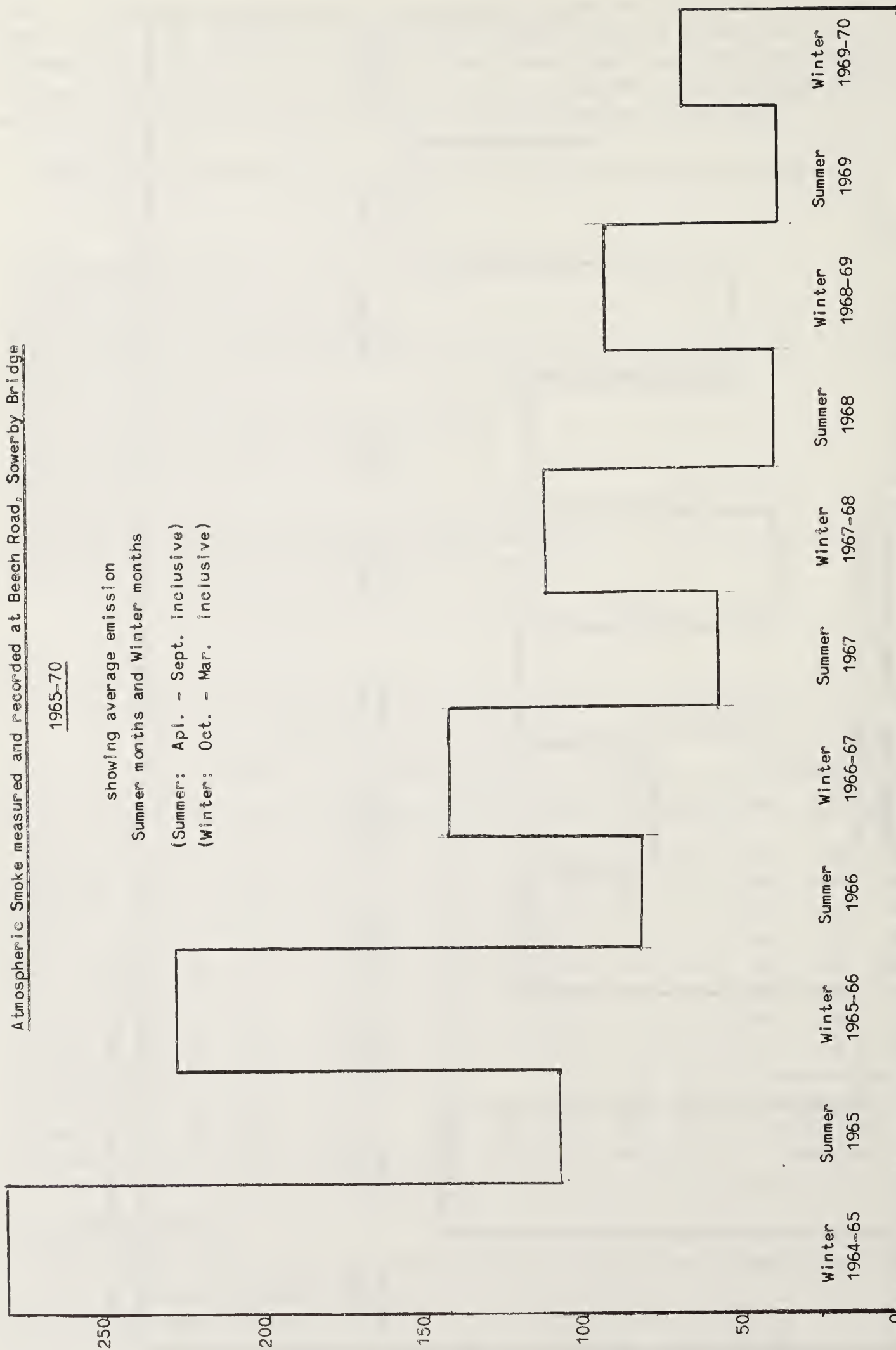
Atmospheric Smoke measured and recorded at Beech Road, Sowerby Bridge

1965-70

showing average emission
Summer months and Winter months

(Summer: Apl. - Sept. inclusive)

(Winter: Oct. - Mar. inclusive)



Scale in Microgrammes per cubic metre.

HOUSING

The Department is responsible for the inspection of houses throughout the district, under the Housing Acts, for the improvement and repair of houses where practicable, and for the representations for clearance or closure of those houses which are unfit and cannot be improved practicably.

The general statistics for 1969 are set out in the following table:-

1.	Approximate number of dwellinghouses in the district	6,577
2.	Number of houses included in above	
	(a) Back-to-back	1,096
	(b) Single back	96
3.	Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere	
	(1) Number of houses included in Representations made during the year	
	(a) in Clearance Areas	100
	(b) Individual Unfit Houses	4
	(2) Clearance Areas	
	(a) Houses demolished	169
	(b) Number of Persons displaced	170
	(c) Number of Families displaced	63
	(3) Unfit Houses not in Clearance Areas	
	(a) Houses demolished	-
	(b) Number of Persons displaced	-
	(c) Number of Families displaced	-
	(4) Unfit Houses closed under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26, Housing Act, 1961	
	(a) Number	4
	(b) Number of Persons displaced	10
	(c) Number of Families displaced	3
	(5) Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied	
	After informal action by Local Authority	
	By Owner	68
	After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
	By Owner	-
	By Local Authority	-

After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957

By Owner	15
By Local Authority	6

4. Number of Families re-housed during the year into Council Houses

(a) Clearance Areas, etc.	41
(b) Overcrowding	-

5. Rent Act, 1957

(a) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	-
(b) Number of Undertakings to execute repairs given by owners to the Local Authority	-
(c) Number of Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	-

6. New Dwellings

Number of dwellings completed during the year

By the Local Authority	5
By Private Enterprise	3

7. Grants for conversion or improvement of housing accommodation

(a) Conversions

(1) Applications received (number of dwellings)	4
(2) Applications approved (number of dwellings)	6
(3) Number of dwellings completed	3

(b) Improvements

(1) Applications received (number of dwellings)	83
(2) Applications approved (number of dwellings)	82
(3) Number of dwellings completed	73

In Section (b), (1) can be divided into 12 Improvement Grants and 71 Standard Grants, all the former being approved, and 70 of the latter. The number of dwellings completed during the year included certain houses where applications had been made in previous years.

8. Details of advances for the purpose of acquiring or constructing houses

The Council operate the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, and during the year 11 advances were made. In addition, 11 improvement loans were made.

Housing Improvement

Much of the Inspectors' time and effort is spent persuading owners of houses which can be improved to take advantage of the Standard Grants and Improvement Grants which are available.

The success of these efforts can be judged by the number of approvals granted by the Council since the introduction of the grant scheme to date. In this period, a total of 1,011 grants have been approved, and 598 Standard and 310 Discretionary or Improvement Grants have actually been paid. Approximately 18% of the privately-owned houses in the Urban District have been improved with grant aid. The Inspection of work in progress, and examination of accounts, is carried out by the Building Inspector, in collaboration with the Health Department.

During the year, new legislation raised the normal maximum amount of grant to £1,000 per house (Improvement Grant) and £200 per house (Standard Grant). Furthermore, the procedure for declaring Improvement Areas was made much simpler and less formal. These changes should have the effect of speeding the improvement of 700 or so suitable houses in the district still requiring improvement.

A preliminary report by the Department to the Council indicated 11 areas which were considered suitable for Improvement Area procedure. Towards the end of the year, the Council requested a detailed report on one of these areas (i.e. that area bounded by Tuel Lane / Albert Road / Burnley Road / Beech Road), and a detailed survey was in progress at the year end. This area consists of approximately 630 houses, 160 of which are still in need of improvement, being mostly soundly-built houses of the side scullery type, with some through terrace property also. An improvement area in this neighbourhood, together with the environmental improvement envisaged, would undoubtedly increase the value and life span of all the houses involved, and be the biggest single step the Council could take to revitalise the area and improve the housing conditions.

73 individual Improvement Grants and Standard Grants were completed during the year.

Clearance of Unfit Houses

This section of the Department's work continues side by side with housing improvement. During 1969, 8 clearance areas were declared, consisting of 101 houses, details of which are set out below. 6 areas were confirmed by the Ministry during the year, and confirmation is awaited for 5 outstanding areas. 169 houses in confirmed clearance areas were demolished during the year.

Details of clearance procedure during the year are set out as follows:-

South Ward (No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969 (Providence Place)	28 houses
Norland Ward (No. 2) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969 (Saw Hill, Triangle) ..	8 houses
North Ward (No. 3) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969 (Chatham St./Maiton St.) ..	8 houses
North Ward (No. 4) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969 (New Marsh/Burnley Road) ..	8 houses
Central Ward (No. 5) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969 (Albion St./Albion Grove)	10 houses
Norland Ward (No. 6) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969 (Pickwood Scar, Norland)	15 houses
Midgley Ward (No. 7) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969 (Duke St., Luddenden) ..	12 houses
Luddenden Foot Ward (No. 8) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969 (Bank Buildings)	12 houses

It is notable that there is much less opposition to Clearance Area action than formerly. When inspections are made, owners and occupiers frequently state that they appreciate the unsatisfactory conditions of the property, and agree with the course of action contemplated. This may be due in part to the increased rates of compensation which have recently become payable for clearance area property; but it is our impression that most occupiers are no longer prepared to accept housing conditions which were commonplace a few years ago. They now want better houses with all accepted modern amenities, and are prepared to pay the necessary extra money for these, generally speaking.

Only one objection was received in respect of a proposed Clearance Area in 1969.

Closure of Unfit Houses

During the year 4 houses were closed, after receipt of undertakings under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. These were mainly individual unfit houses where demolition was impracticable due to the effect on adjoining property. However, 2 of the houses were Council-owned, and were subsequently demolished. These were on land purchased by the Council in connection with refuse disposal.

Future Clearance Programme

An up-to-date programme was compiled during the year, listing the property in the district which is considered unfit and unsuitable for improvement. At the end of the year, this comprised over 550 houses which it is hoped to represent for clearance in the 6 years 1970-1975 inclusive. In addition, there are approximately 150 houses which may have to be dealt with under clearance procedure after 1975, depending on the condition of the houses at that time.

These unfit houses represent just over 10% of the houses in the district. As stated above, a similar number of other houses are unfit, but can and should be improved and made fit with the help of the grants available.

It will be seen, therefore, that a great deal remains for the Council to accomplish in the next few years, before the problem of unsatisfactory housing is finally overcome.

Overcrowding

Inspections for overcrowding continue. However, this is not the problem that it was, although occasional cases still come to light. These are usually abated after informal action.

Advances for House Purchase

These continue to be made by the Council to purchasers of the older type of property where Building Society mortgages are not forthcoming. Demand for these loans always exceeds the money available, but during the year 11 advances (totalling £7,180) were made for this purpose, together with 11 improvement loans (totalling £5,125).

Re-building

Only 8 houses were completed in the district during 1969, comprising 5 Council dwellings and 3 built by private enterprise. The following table shows the number of houses erected in the Urban District over the past 20 years.

It is interesting to note how little the number of houses in the district has changed over the last 20 years, as new building has kept pace with slum clearance almost exactly, until this

year when very few houses have been built. However, the population has declined considerably during this period. No doubt many interesting conclusions can be drawn from these facts.

Table of Houses erected in the Urban District over the past 20 years:

Year	Houses Erected		Total	Houses Condemned
	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise		
1950	22	-	22	-
1951	16	2	18	-
1952	12	-	12	-
1953	40	-	40	-
1954	58	-	58	-
1955	52	-	52	-
1956	28	-	28	-
1957	17	-	17	-
1958	-	-	-	47
1959	31	2	33	41
1960	3	12	15	53
1961	24	18	42	166
1962	12	13	25	55
1963	97	-	97	122
1964	86	4	90	257
1965	203	24	227	173
1966	135	4	139	112
1967	186	29	215	22
1968	32	1	33	123
1969	5	3	8	101
	1,059	112	1,171	1,272

General Housing Inspection

	Visits											
Public Health Acts, 1936-61 (housing)	33
Re-visits	24
Housing Act, 1957	264
Re-visits	247
Miscellaneous Housing	412
Re-visits	150
Housing Survey for Clearance, etc., and Improvement	1,244
Inspection of Individual Unfit Houses	18
Clearance Area sites	32
Rent Act, 1957	-
Improvement Grant visits	115
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts	38
Overcrowding	8

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

As in previous years, all animals slaughtered at the one private slaughterhouse in the district were inspected. With the exception of 1 lamb carcase, all the meat was found to be of very good quality, with only a small number of minor conditions found in a few animals, mainly in the liver.

The table below gives all the details of inspections. It will be seen that the incidence of tuberculosis continues to decline, only 5 cases being found during the year, all of which were in pigs and confined to the head. (This is in marked contrast to the situation throughout the country some years ago, before the tuberculosis eradication scheme was introduced, when large quantities of beef were condemned as a result of this disease). There were no cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* found during the year.

The small quantity of meat which is condemned is marked with a conspicuous dye, and immediately buried on the Council's controlled tip at Mearclough.

Details of the carcasses inspected and condemned are set out in the following table:

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	186	-	983	434
Number inspected	186	-	983	434
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	39	-	91	29
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	20.9	-	9.35	6.68
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	1.15
Cysticercosis:				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned				

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Licences have been issued to 7 slaughtermen, under the above Act.

Slaughter of Poultry

There is no poultry processing establishment in the district, although it is possible that spasmodic slaughtering of poultry occurs on remote farms, particularly at Christmas time. This is an offence, of course, unless the appropriate Regulations as regards hygienic practices and premises, etc., are complied with.

Unsound Food - Surrendered or Condemned

A considerable amount of unsound food has again been examined and condemned during the year. This food comes mainly from the shops and a wholesale food warehouse in the district, and much is voluntarily surrendered by the food handlers when suspect articles of food come to their notice.

Once again, deep freeze failures were responsible for considerable quantities of food being condemned. Also, modern handling methods in warehouses and the larger stores seem to result in a larger number of damaged tins, etc., than formerly.

The following is a list of tinned and packaged foods condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1969:-

	Tons	Cwts..	Qtrs. .	Lbs.	Ozs. .
Meat		12	-	11	11
Vegetables	1	9	-	16	10
Fruit		6	2	12	2
Fish			3	21	6
Soup		12	-	19	5
Rice		5	-	26	15
Sago			1	11	4
Milk		2	-	4	12
Cream				25	12
Custard			1	7	5
Fruit Juice			2	24	10
Syrup				21	-
Tapioca				16	-
Spaghetti		1	1	10	-
Macaroni			2	-	-
Semolina			2	6	-
Ravioli				4	-
Butter, Lard				12	8
Totals ..	3	12	2	27	4

418 tins Baby Food; 232 lbs. Frozen Foods; 6 lbs. Ice Cream;

Food Inspection - General

In spite of the vigilance of the majority of food handlers and of the inspections, it is inevitable that occasional complaints are made regarding unsound food, and 3 such complaints were received and formally investigated during the year.

In one case, where it was considered that there was some negligence regarding the sale of a tin of peaches found to be unfit for human consumption, the firm involved was prosecuted under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. A plea of guilty was entered and a fine of £25, plus costs, was imposed.

In the other 2 cases, the Council issued strong cautions to the firms involved. Both these cases involved wrapped baked goods which were found to be slightly mouldy, due to poor stock control.

The food shops are visited regularly, and the standard of hygiene of the premises is consequently very good generally, as is the hygiene consciousness of most of the food handlers. Below is a list of all food shops in the district, and details of the visits made during the year:-

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits
Bakehouses	2	12
Butchers' Shops	25	71
Butchers' Stalls (Market)	5	14
Canteens	23	14
Confectioners and Sweet Shops	25	20
Food Factories	6	7
Fried Fish Shops	18	30
Fish Merchant (Market Stall)	1	12
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	16	41
Grocers - General	51	101
Ice Cream - Retailers and Vans	54	31
Market Stalls - Miscellaneous Foods	19	125
Mobile Traders	35	22
Public Houses and Clubs	41	20
Restaurants and Snack Bars, etc.	8	18
Slaughterhouse	1	120
Wholesale Food Premises	2	11
Miscellaneous Food Visits	-	52

Market

The Council-owned open market is held on Tuesdays and Fridays, and consists of approximately 100 stalls, selling all manner of goods from foodstuffs to clothing and antiques, etc.

The stalls are arranged so that there is a self-contained section of food stalls, all of which are covered and comply fully with the Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations, 1966.

The stalls are permanent in structure, and superior to many which can still be seen throughout the country, as the Council endeavour to keep them up-to-date and well maintained.

The market is inspected weekly, and 151 visits were made during the year for this purpose. The standard of cleanliness continues to be satisfactory.

Milk Sampling

Farm-bottled milk is sampled from the roundsmen as a routine, to check on the keeping quality and cleanliness of the milk (methylene blue test), and also for the presence of Brucellosis organisms.

A total of 105 raw milk samples were taken during the year. Of these, one failed the methylene blue test, and the necessary steps were taken to improve handling procedure at the dairy. 14 of the samples proved to be positive for Brucellosis on culture, and as a result 189 individual cow samples were taken from local herds, and the affected cows eventually removed from the herds. Where the milk originated from farms outside the district, the appropriate Authority was notified in order that similar action could be taken.

In addition to the samples of raw milk, 2 samples of pasteurised milk and 1 of sterilised milk were taken for examination as to efficiency of heat treatment. All were satisfactory on examination.

It was found necessary during the year to prosecute a milk dealer for obstructing an Inspector, and for failing to display the name and address on the delivery vehicle, as required by the Regulations. Fines totalling £17, plus costs, were imposed. The majority of milk dealers continue to be most co-operative, however.

Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the Urban District, and the 41 registered shops sell only pre-wrapped ice cream. In addition, 13 vans are registered under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. The premises and vans are inspected from time to time, and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained.

Food Hawkers

At the year end, 35 food hawkers were registered under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. Details of these registrations are as follows:-

- 5 dealing in Bread and Confectionery
- 12 dealing in Greengrocery, including Fish
- 13 dealing in Ice Cream
- 3 dealing in General Foodstuffs
- 2 dealing in Meat and Meat Products

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

Refuse Collection

The Department is responsible for the administration of the cleansing services in the district, with the exception of street cleansing. This includes the collection and disposal of refuse together with the collection of industrial, trade, market refuse, pails, etc., which continues to operate satisfactorily. Waste paper and other salvageable materials are also collected and, under the Civic Amenities Act, the removal of bulky material from houses and waste lands, and also the removal of abandoned vehicles.

Refuse for the most part continues to be moved on a 7-day cycle, and this is only extended following holidays or periods of illness.

An efficient refuse collection is directly related to a reliable and settled labour force. During the year the turnover of labour has been in the region of 45%, and whilst this is not considered exceptional it is unfortunate, as it tends to unsettle a team and throw the rounds behind schedule.

The bonus scheme has to some extent offset the effects of absenteeism and the short term worker as the team, in an effort to keep the rounds up to schedule, endeavour to absorb the work of these people and so attract a much higher bonus. This state of affairs may continue for a short time, but the effects of depleted teams are very soon felt, and efforts have to be made to maintain full crews as far as possible.

As far as the regular collection of refuse is concerned, the bonus scheme has gone a very long way to achieve this, even with depleted teams, and this is one great advantage of the incentive bonus scheme, but there are disadvantages which have been pointed out previously, and one of these is its effect on the collection of waste paper.

Whilst a waste paper bonus is paid, it would appear much more profitable to finish the rounds earlier and so attract a larger bonus, than to spend more time on the separation of waste paper and so qualify for a salvage bonus.

The paper sack system of refuse collection has been extended once again, and continues to work satisfactorily. The Department commenced this system with free standing and wall units, with the paper sack attached and so free standing. The complaints of sack failure due to interference by animals have increased, and the Department has now changed over to the bin liner method. This is the provision of a plastic bin, which is lined with either a paper or plastic sack, which is removed weekly. This keeps the bin clean and hygienic, and the sack completely free from interference by animals. It is felt that this is a better method of the sack system of refuse collection.

There is a limit to which the paper sack system can be extended, but it is hoped to cover within the next 5 years at least 40% of the district.

The replacement of bins continues, but the bin has now taken the form of a plastic container, many types of which have been tried and a considerable number of which have been unsatisfactory. There are, however, a small number which have stood up to the tests and appear to be quite

satisfactory, and it is hoped that the life of these will be very similar to that of the galvanised bins. The advantage of these containers is that the noise is almost non-existent, and the weight considerably reduced. Due to the bulky nature of the refuse, the size of the bin now provided has been increased from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ cu.ft.

The communal refuse accommodation continues to decrease, with the removal of substandard houses. This type of accommodation was most objectionable, and it is pleasing to see this diminishing so rapidly.

There is, unfortunately, one aspect of refuse collection which is rather disturbing, and this is the disposal of refuse by chutes into bulk containers, which is to be found in the flats. Where adequate supervision is provided, as in the case of the tall blocks of flats, there is no trouble whatsoever, but in the smaller blocks in certain areas the method leaves very much to be desired. Although the containers are removed twice weekly, we still find blocked chutes and refuse not placed into the chute, but thrown in the general direction of the same, causing the passages and common stairways to be most objectionable, and in these areas rat infestation has been observed.

The amount of refuse collected during the year is set out in the following table:-

Vehicle	Ashbins	Pails	Loads	Tons	Cwts.
Karrier No. 12	1,540	60	16	24	-
Karrier No. 13	40,762	3,158	514	753	-
S. & D. No. 14	16,360	210	106	249	-
Dennis No. 15	126,085	-	508	1,530	-
S. & D. No. 16	26,574	268	861	933	-
Dennis No. 17	114,526	-	460	1,386	-
Bedford	-	-	12	8	-
Totals ..	325,847	3,696	2,477	4,883	-

Transport

The Department continues to operate 5 vehicles on refuse collection, 4 of which are in regular use, the 5th being used as a spare vehicle, being brought into service during any emergency on the collection rounds.

As the vehicles become redundant and are replaced, before scrapping completely they are used as far as possible for the conveyance of covering material on the tip.

The vehicle for the collection of pails has been disposed of during the year, and this has now been replaced by a Dennis Paxit. In addition the tractor, which was purchased in 1963 and was to be depreciated over 6 years, was found to have been extremely well maintained and it was decided to have this completely overhauled at a cost of nearly £500. This should now give an extended life to the vehicle. In addition, a second-hand open tipping vehicle was purchased for

use on the tip. This vehicle has proved invaluable, as it has been possible to extend its use for the collection of very bulky household material such as large chairs, beddings, etc., which it was not found possible to deal with in the compressor type refuse collection vehicles.

The fleet of vehicles contains 2 large 25 cu.yd. and 2 smaller 11 cu.yd., together with an 18 cu.yd. fore and aft freighter as a spare vehicle.

In view of the fact that the Authority is partly rural in character, having narrow roads and many farm tracks, it is essential that the smaller vehicles are used in these areas; but it is essential that the 2 larger vehicles are used in the more congested part of the area in order that an efficient payload may be obtained.

In addition to the driver, each of these large vehicles has 3 loaders, and the routes are so planned that each vehicle can do a full morning's and afternoon's work without returning to the tip, so much time is saved in travelling. In order, therefore, to get a maximum payload, travelling time must be reduced to a minimum. The size of the vehicle cannot be increased due to the access roads and sharp corners at the back of many of our estates, but it is found that these perform in a most efficient manner and with a minimum amount of nuisance.

As new vehicles are introduced they become more and more complicated and the cost of repairs and maintenance is ever increasing. The initial cost is now measured in thousands rather than hundreds, and it is therefore most important that the maximum amount of work be obtained from this very costly equipment. The Council cannot afford to have such costly vehicles off the road for any length of time, and as I mentioned in my last report there may be a case for the setting up of a repairs department to deal with all the Council's transport, especially in view of the ever increasing garage costs.

The vehicles which are now operated by the Department, together with the duties on which they are employed, are set out in the following table:-

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
12	Karrier Bantam (with tank) (taken out of service April)	1959	7 cu.yds. 150/200 gall. tank	Refuse Collection Pails
13	Karrier Bantam (dual tip)	1961	11 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection, Salvage.
14	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader (with power press)	1962	18 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
15	Dennis Paxit (continuous loader)	1964	25 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
16	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader (with power press)	1965	11 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection, Salvage, Trade Refuse.
17	Dennis Paxit (continuous loader) (commenced service April)	1969	25 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
	Bedford	1969		Tip work, Civic Amenities Act.
	J.C.B. Shovel	1963	Shovel	Refuse Disposal.

Accidents

During the year the vehicles have been involved in 11 accidents, as follows:-

Karrier No. 13	..	..	..	..	2
Dennis No. 15	..	..	..	..	2
S. & D. No. 16	..	..	..	..	3
Dennis No. 17	..	..	..	..	4

There has again been an increase in the number of accidents over the previous year, of which 3 were of a rather serious nature. The remainder mostly involved dry stone walls, gate posts, etc., which were caused in the main due to narrow roads, indiscriminate parking of vehicles, etc., but unfortunately 5 of these accidents were caused by vehicles reversing, and I am of the opinion that many could be avoided if the instructions which are given to each driver were properly carried out.

The serious accidents involved the failure of the braking system on the Dennis 17, which seriously damaged a car and garden wall; a brake failure on the Karrier 13 whilst coming down Tuel Lane, which caused extensive damage to the front of the vehicle and an outbuilding; and the skidding off an unmade road of the S. & D. 16, whilst road repairs were in progress.

Municipal Ashbin Scheme

This scheme has, over the years, been invaluable to the Authority. It was commenced in 1949 as a bin hire scheme, and later adopted as a Municipal Ashbin Scheme.

The scheme has allowed the Local Authority to standardise on its containers, and also to experiment with different types of containers, the introduction of paper sack schemes of different types, to the benefit of the Authority. The scheme has obviated the necessity for the service of notice for replacement of bins, and this is carried out as a routine matter.

During the year 239 bins have been replaced.

Trade Refuse

The scale of charges for the collection of trade refuse has remained unchanged. One bin of refuse is still collected free of charge, with a charge of 1s. 0d. per bin for each additional bin or part thereof.

The trade refuse for the most part is collected once per week, with the exception of the more objectionable refuse from the slaughterhouse, market, fish shops, etc., and this is collected twice per week.

With the continued emphasis and extension of smoke control areas the industrialists, who have made every effort to comply with the Orders, are finding increasing difficulties in disposing of industrial waste by burning, and consequently the Local Authority is being called upon to remove ever increasing quantities of this type of refuse.

The total amount of trade and industrial refuse removed during the year has realised approximately £920.

Refuse Disposal

The method of refuse disposal is 100% controlled tipping at the central depot at Milner Royd.

The tipping space is being reduced at quite a considerable rate due, firstly, to the bulky nature of domestic refuse, and secondly by contractors and industrialists. The present site should last for about a further 4 years. A certain amount of the contractors' refuse can be used for covering, but unfortunately much of the useful material never finds its way to the tip, and consequently the Department is left to dispose of clay, boulders, tree roots, etc.

The industrial refuse, which is increasing in quantity, is becoming more difficult to control as it consists for the most part of combustible matter, and refuse of a very dangerous nature. Many Authorities refuse to take this type of refuse, but at Milner Royd efforts have been made to cope with this by setting aside a part of the tip solely for industrial refuse, for which a charge of only 5s. 0d. per load is made. Free tipping is allowed for useful material such as topsoil, etc.

Tipping space is becoming increasingly valuable to this Authority, and when the present site is completed there may be difficulty in finding additional sites. If contractors, therefore, continue to use the tip the charge should be at least doubled, and with difficult materials should be at least £1 per load. These new charges actually came into operation during the year.

Unfortunately, there has been one very serious fire, which was caused by the tipping of industrial refuse, and to control this special equipment had to be brought and a considerable amount of refuse moved. With the bulky and very combustible nature of the material, the fire hazard is always with us, and it is therefore essential that efficient covering is carried out at all stages. Unfortunately, covering material is now at a premium, and for this purpose a considerable amount of decomposed refuse has had to be used.

In order to take much of the industrial refuse from the tip, enquiries were made for the provision of an incinerator to deal with all types of industrial waste. Before making enquiries, a certain amount of correspondence was entered into with all firms in the district, in order to try to ascertain the type and quantity of material to be dealt with. It was most unfortunate that the majority of the factories were not interested, whilst in certain other cases provision had been made to install incinerators for their own use.

A certain amount of exploratory work has been made in relation to providing a suitable incinerator for this purpose, but so far we have been unsuccessful. With the tipping space being filled quite rapidly, the time is fast approaching when Authorities in the Upper Calder Valley will have to get together in order to discuss the future of refuse disposal, and it would appear that whilst tipping space will be required for some considerable time, plans should be prepared for complete incineration of house and trade refuse.

Salvage

The salvage returns show a considerable increase over the previous year. The tonnage of waste paper has increased from approximately 108 tons, bringing in £966, to 204 tons, bringing in £2,119.

This return is most encouraging, but there is no doubt that even more waste paper is available, provided that the crews will take the trouble to separate the paper which is put out for separate collection.

One reason for the increase may have been the introduction of a larger press, making the loading easier and the output greater. Perhaps another factor was the visit which took place to the Board Mills at Warrington. Members of the Council, together with all the employees, visited the mills and this proved both instructive and interesting, and I feel gave a greater incentive to collect waste paper.

Details of the salvage recovered in 1969 are set out in the following table:-

Materials Salvaged	T	C	Q	£	s	d
Mixed Paper	103	7	-	959	9	9
Fibreboard	32	12	-	375	6	6
Newspapers	53	17	-	612	1	6
Kraft Sacks	14	16	-	172	18	6
Totals ..	204	12	-	2,119	16	3

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

The sections of this Act administered by the Health Department deal with the indiscriminate dumping of refuse in unauthorised places, and the removal of abandoned motor vehicles.

The Council tip at Mearclough is open at all times for the deposit of bulky refuse, or refuse in excess of that normally collected weekly. No charge is made for household refuse taken to the tip. In addition, any householder having bulky refuse to remove has only to contact the Department, for a special collection to be made. This is free of charge in the great majority of cases. These facilities are widely used and appreciated.

Despite these facilities, and the publicity given to them, however, some people still persist in dumping refuse on any piece of public or private land, often in inaccessible positions. One example of a pleasant stretch of woodland which is continually spoiled by such illicit dumping is at Daisy Bank, Luddenden Foot. This is despite the fact that there are extremely heavy penalties for this offence. During the year, 22 such dumps and accumulations were cleared.

As a result of formal and informal procedure under the Act, 26 abandoned vehicles have been

removed from open spaces, either by the person responsible, or a local scrap merchant. The Council has an agreement with this merchant, and the removal is carried out at no charge to the Local Authority.

By prompt action in this manner, we have managed to overcome the problem of dumped cars in this area.

GENERAL ITEMS

Petroleum Acts and Orders

Routine inspection of petrol stations and petroleum installations was made prior to the issuing of the licences. This work has also been carried out in conjunction with the Fire Prevention Officer of the West Riding County Council.

During the year 19 inspections have been carried out, and the following licences have been issued:-

Storage of Petroleum	30
Storage of Cellulose Paint and Petroleum Mixtures	7

Rodent Control

The work of rodent control is divided between a part-time operative, who deals with both business and commercial premises, and the cleansing foreman, who is responsible for the remainder. In the absence of one or the other, then this work is carried out by the Inspectors.

During the year 197 dwellinghouses, 57 business premises, 7 Local Authority properties and 7 agricultural properties have been inspected and treated as necessary. The infestations were of a minor nature for the most part. The number of visits made to the premises in question, including re-visits and preliminary inspections, totalled 375.

The number of treatments carried out at the various premises during the year are set out as follows:-

Local Authority properties	21
Private dwellings	591
Business premises	228
Agricultural properties	14

The position regarding feral (wild) pigeons has increased during the year. There does not appear to have been any major infestation, but there have been a considerable number of minor infestations due to local ratepayers establishing a feeding pattern. Although there has been no treatment for the eradication of these pigeons, there is no doubt that if they continue to increase then treatment will have to be undertaken in the coming year.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

Under the above Regulations, the following scrap metal dealers are on the register:-

- (1) Messrs Bradley & Holmes, 16 Arden Road, Halifax,
trading from (a) Causeway Holme Works, Sowerby Bridge
(b) The Goods Sidings, Sowerby Bridge Station
- (2) Mr. J. Smith, Thorpe Mills, Triangle,
trading from Thorpe Mills.

